Please replace paragraph 3, page 6 with the following:

FIGURE 2 is a flow diagram of a procedure used by a system to highlight the regions or areas of the image which are in focus. In step 101, a first region is selected for analysis. In step 102, the region is checked to determine if it has been marked as in-focus or out-of-focus. If the region is not marked, flow returns to FIGURE 1. If the analyzed region is marked as in-focus, step 103 determines the edge of the region. If edges are found in step 104, then these edges are highlighted in step 105. Highlighting may include blinking the identified portion of the object, reversing its color scheme, enclosing the focused section within a box, or similar highlighting techniques. If edges are not detected in step 104 or, after the detected edges are highlighted in step 105, the procedure continues by determining if additional regions are present which must be checked for in-focus markings. If additional regions are available step 107 selects the next region and the process continues in step 102. If, however, all regions have been checked the procedure is completed.

In the Claims

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121 (a)(2), Applicant has set forth amendments to claims by rewriting these claims with all changes. These amendments are made solely to expedite prosecution of the application and without any intent to further limit the scope of the invention. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute claims of the original or other scope in appropriately filed continuing applications. A version with markings to show changes is attached.

1. (Amended) A method of automatically highlighting focused objects within a preview window comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital representation of an image;

determining a near focus distance;

identifying near portions of objects within said image at said near focus distance;

determining a far focus distance;

identifying far portions of objects within said image at said far focus distance;

highlighting said near portions and said far portions of said objects within said image; and

disabling highlighting of said near portions and said far portions when an indication has been received.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of:

displaying a digital image including said highlighted near and far portions.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

performing said steps of receiving, determining a near focus distance, identifying near portions, determining a far focus distance, identifying far portions, highlight and displaying within a digital camera.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

determining focused portions of objects between said near portions and said far portions; and

highlighting said focused portions.

5. The method of claim 4 further including the step of:

displaying said highlighted focused portions on said digital image.

6. A camera comprising:

an image sensor responsive to a light image projected onto said image sensor for providing image data;

an adjustable focus lens configured to project said light image onto said image sensor;

a controller configured to adjust a focus of said adjustable focus lens and receive said image data from said image sensor, said controller further configured to distinguish portions of said image data that represent focused portions of said light image from portions that are not in focus; and

a display configured to display said image data together with highlighting distinguishing said portions of said image data that represent said focused portions of said light image from said portions that are not in focus.

7. The camera according to claim 6 further comprising a memory storing a contrast evaluation procedure executable by said controller for distinguishing said portions of said image data that represent said focused portions of said light image from said portions that are not in focus.

8. The camera according to claim 6 wherein said image sensor comprises a two-dimensional array of light detectors.

9. The camera according to claim 6 wherein said adjustable focus lens includes a focusing motor connected to adjust a configuration of optical elements of said adjustable focus lens in response to a control signal from said controller.

10. The camera according to claim 6 wherein said controller is configured to determine contrast values of said light image.

11. The camera according to claim 6 wherein said controller is further configured to process said image data for storage in a memory.

12. The camera according to claim 6 wherein said controller implements a lossy compression algorithm on said image data to form compressed image data and stores said compressed image data in a memory.

13. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of:

disabling said highlighting of said near and said far portions.

14. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

compressing said digital image to provide compressed image data; and

storing said compressed image data in a memory.

15. The method of claim 6 wherein said determining said near and said far portions is performed from identified edges of objects contained within the digital representation of an image.

16. The method of claim 6 wherein said highlighting comprises blinking said near and far portions of said image in focus.

17. (Amended) A focus highlighting system comprising:

a processor for highlighting focused portions of an image;

an autofocus mechanism configured to determine portions of an image within focus;

a display configured to display a digital image including highlighting;

a memory configured to store said digital representation of said image; and

a disabling feature which disables highlighting when selected by a user.

18. The focus highlighting system of claim 17 wherein:

said autofocus calculates a near focus distance and determines near portions of objects using said near focus distance.

19. The focus highlighting system of claim 18 wherein:

said autofocus calculates a far focus distance and determines far portions of objects using said far focus distance.

20. The focus highlighting system of claim 19 wherein:

said portions of said image include said near focus portions and said far focus portions.

21. The focus highlighting system of claim 17 wherein said highlighting includes blinking.

22. (Please cancel claim 22).

23. (Amended) A camera comprising:

an image sensor;

an image processor configured to determine portions of objects which appear in focus and to highlight said portions;

a memory configured to store said image captured by said image sensor; and

an image compressor configured to perform compression of image data.